

# St. James Episcopal Church

204 N. Lee Street

Leesburg, FL 34748

Phone (352) 787-1981



# MAY 2026 MESSENGER



## ST. JAMES ANNUAL PARISH-WIDE PICNIC

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

**WHERE:** The Leesburg Boat Club 31 Dozier Circle  
(Behind the Venetian Center, facing  
beautiful Lake Harris.)

**TIME:** Noon to 2:00 p.m.     **COST: FREE**

Our annual Parish Picnic is a valued and longstanding tradition within our church community. BBQ, sides, and beverages will be provided, and we invite each guest to bring a favorite dessert to share.

Mark your calendar and join us for an enjoyable time and fellowship!

## CONNECT ORIENTATION SERIES

This three-part series, taught by Bob Tindall, serves as an introduction to the life and history of St. James, and our worship. Our last session is on **May 3rd: The Stained Glass Windows of St. James**. This presentation is at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall.



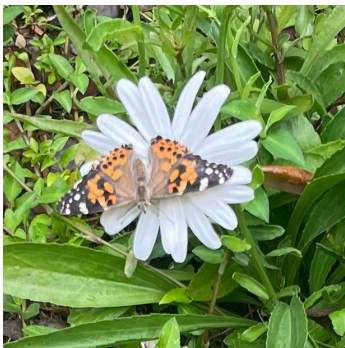
## May GRIEF SUPPORT Gathering

Our next Grief Support Gathering is on Thursday, May 07, 2026, in the Chapel (located behind the church on 204 N. Lee Street in Leesburg). Meet and Greet will start at 3:00 on the Veranda In front of the Parish Hall. Bottled water and a small snack (usually chocolate) are provided.

Our conversation topic for May is “Grief and Dreams”. A study conducted in the American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care examined the impact of grief dreams and found that “dreams of the deceased occur frequently, can be highly meaningful and further healing from a loss.” Join us as we share our experiences and thoughts on how dreams can possibly comfort us during the healing process.

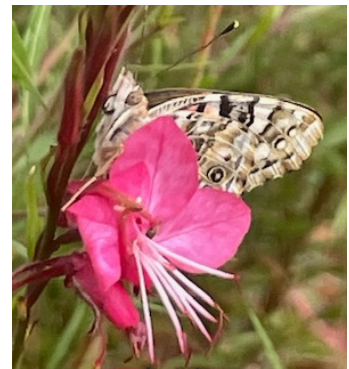
Hope to see you **Thursday, May 7th in the Chapel**. Our grief support group meets once a month and is open to anyone who has lost a loved one and needs support from others who know firsthand what they are going through.

Susan Cyrus, Grief Support Facilitator



## ECW BUTTERFLY ADOPTION & RELEASE

**May 10th (Mother's Day at 9:15 a.m.)  
Butterfly Garden.**



Music will be provided by The Youth Choir, accompanied by Jan Tindall on Flute. Pollinator and host plants will be available for purchase.

Forms are available at church to adopt a butterfly in memory of, or Thanksgiving for a Loved one.

The cost is **\$15** each. Please return completed forms, along with cash or check to the church office or place in the Butterfly container in the Parish Hall.

The names of those being remember will be published.





# ST. JAMES MEN'S MINISTRY

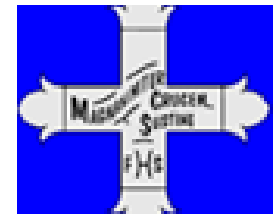
Tuesday, May 12th at 5:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Jim Logan, Residence, 35329 South Grays Airport Rd., Fruitland Park, FL 34731-0729

**COST:** \$25 per person, boys under 18 are **FREE**



## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING



The Daughters of the King meet on the **2nd Wednesday** of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 13, 2026.**

Fr. Tom will continue his Bible study with us on the Epistle to the Hebrews

If you are interested in joining the Daughters of the King, please contact:

**Catherine Holt.**

**All are welcome!**

*Daughters of the King*  
is delighted to offer a new  
*Jr. Daughters of the King* chapter

Update from St. James Episcopal Church

**\* Who Can Join? \***  
Girls ages 7-18

**\* What is JDOK? \***

- Grow in faith
- Build friendships
- Serve others through prayer and action

**\* Elizabeth Linberger - Directress**  
**\* Lara Lahey - Co-Directress**

All leaders will complete background checks and Safe Church training to ensure a safe environment.

**\* Interest Meeting \***

We are having an interest meeting at 12:30 pm on May 17, 2026 at St. James Episcopal Church, in the Parish Hall located at 204 Lee Street in Leesburg

**\* For information contact \***

Elizabeth Linberger - 407-417-4849  
Lara Lahey - 407-461-7014

## Sebastiana Springmann Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests



Congratulations to our very own Rev. Sebastiana on fulfilling her requirement for priesthood! Sebastiana will be ordained on Saturday, **May 16th at 11:00 a.m.** at the **All Saints Episcopal Church, 338 E Lyman Ave, Winter Park.**

We have arranged for a **56-passenger motor coach** to transport St. James parishioners to this very special event. Departure time is scheduled for **9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 16th.**

Because of a generous anonymous donation, the price per person is only \$10.00. This price includes the tip for the driver.

We are blessed to have Rev. Sebastiana at St. James and eagerly anticipate celebrating this significant milestone with her. If you would like to sign up for a seat on the bus or have any other questions regarding this event, please contact Susan Cyrus or call/email the church office at **(352) 787-1981** or office **@stjames-leesburg.org**



You can access the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) with this QR code:

We are utilizing the CAT, produced by HolyCow! Consulting, to sharpen our Mission, Vision, and Strategic Planning for St. James. Your input is valuable! The survey will be open for the next three weeks.

Here are some things to know about it: It is multiple choice, and your answers are anonymous. It should take about 20-25 minutes to complete. You must answer all questions to submit it. Every adult member of St. James is encouraged to take part, including members of the same household.

Not comfortable using an electronic device (computer, tablet, phone)? Please contact **Marc Crouch** for options for using a paper copy: **804-402-2011 (call or text) / crouch.marc@yahoo.com**

For parents with youth 16+ in age, we suggest that you take the assessment first to determine if they would like to complete it. For middle and high school youth under 16, in lieu of the assessment, we will have a forum on May 13, @ 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall. They will be invited to discuss their thoughts about St. James and its future for the youth in the Leesburg area.

Thank you for taking part in our “Holy Cow” assessment, and helping us build St. James’ future!



## KEEP FLIPPING THOSE TOPS



The handwriting is on the wall, yes it's true! Along the Ronald McDonald House stair-way thanks and praise is spelled out to all the staff members of the Arnold Palmer House in Orlando.

The staff is being recognized for their skill and kindness for caring for the families of the children who are being tended at the Children's Hospital there on the grounds. Kudos also go to all the volunteers who add friendly and compassionate cheer to those in need.



### **LIBRARY CORNER**

In our Liturgical Calendar we are now in EASTERTIDE, which began on Easter Sunday (The Day of the Risen Lord) and which lasts 50 days until PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 24th. During Eastertide we celebrate and reflect on our Christian faith. On Pentecost Sunday we wear red to commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit; red reminds of us of Christ's passion and the fire and power of the Holy Spirit. It is the start of the long summer and fall season, the longest of Christian church seasons, which ends on ADVENT SUNDAY, NOV. 29th in 2026.

Be sure, be adventurous, and know that you are welcome to read from our Parish Library collection any of the informative books about our Christian faith. These will inspire you and deepen your understanding of our liturgical year and answer many religious questions for you. I look forward to welcoming you in our library during the summer.

**Open hours are every THURSDAY MORNING.** Also recently acquired books are available on the book trucks in the Parish Hall. Wishing you a happy and safe summer.

*Margaret Branham (mabranham@aol.com)*



### **MEN'S MINISTRY PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Please join us in our Men's Morning Prayer service and enjoy breakfast and fellowship. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in the Parish Hall at 8:00 a.m. Our next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, May 20th.

For more information, please contact the church office at 352-787-1981.

*Ted Kermode*



### **MAY 14TH ASCENSION DAY SERVICE**

This year's Joint Ascension Day service will be hosted by St. Edwards Episcopal Church in Mt. Dora (460 N. Grandview St.) on **Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.** Clergy from other Episcopal Churches, including St. James, will be participating. The guest preacher will be Rev'd Julie Altenbach, Archdeacon for the Diocese of Central Florida.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY SATURDAY

# MAY 2026

**3 5th Sunday of Easter**  
 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I)  
 9:00 Sunday School (Parish Hall)  
 10:15 Eucharist (RITE II) 11:30 Cantate  
**12-2 PARISH PICNIC, LEESBURG**  
 **BOAT CLUB** -31 Dozier Cir, Leesburg  
 6:00 Young Adult Bible Study

**4**  
 6:00  
 Beginner  
 Ukulele

**5** ECW MEETINGS  
**9:00 ECW Board Meeting**  
 (St. Nicholas House)  
**11:00 ECW End of the Year Luncheon**  
 (Parish Hall)

**6 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Coffee Snob)**  
*10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open*  
**4:00 Youth Singers** **5:45 Bell Choir**  
**6:45 Adult Choir**

**7 8:30-12 Library Open**  
**10:00 Healing & Anointing (Chapel)**  
*10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open*  
**3:00 Grief Support (Chapel)**

**8**  
*10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open*

**9**

**10 6th Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)**  
 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I)  
*9-12 Jody's Gift Shop Open*  
 9:00 Sunday School (Parish Hall)  
**9:30 BUTTERFLY RELEASE**  
 (Butterfly Garden)  
 10:15 Eucharist (RITE I)  
 11:30 Cantate  
 6:00 Young Adult Bible Study



**11 3:00 Stephen Ministry**  
 6:00 Beginner Ukulele  
 7:00 Advanced Ukulele

**12 Men's Ministry**  
  
*Jim Logan's House*  
**5:30 p.m.**

*10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open*  
**12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Coffee Snob)**  
**2:00 Daughters of the King (Parish Hall)**

**14 8:30-12 Library Open**  
*10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open*  
 10:00 Healing & Anointing  
**6:00 Assention Day Service,**  
 St Edward's Episcopal Church,  
 460 N Grandview St, Mt Dora, FL 32757



**15** *10-2 Gift Shop Open*  
**Sebastiana's Ordination**  
**BUS LEAVES ST. JAMES AT 9:00 A.M.**

**16**

**17 7th Sunday of Easter** *9-12 Jody's Gift Shop Open*  
 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I)  
 9:00 Sunday School (Parish Hall)  
 10:15 Eucharist (RITE II) **(Children's Church)** 11:30 Cantate  
 6:00 Young Adult Bible Study

**18**  
 6:00  
 Beginner  
 Ukulele

**19 CHAPTER MEETINGS**  
**10:00 St. Anne's**  
 (St. Nicholas House)  
**10:00 St. Francis'**  
 (Parish Hall)  
**3:00 St. Cecilia's**  
 (Parish Hall)

**20 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast**  
**9:00 - 12:00 Food Drop**  
*10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open*  
**12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Coffee Snob)**  
**5:00 Finance Committee Meeting**  
**Fr. Tom's Office**

**21 8:00 Weeding Day**  
 Butterfly Garden  
**8:30-12 Library Open**  
**10:00 Healing & Anointing (Chapel)**  
**6:30 Vestry (Parish Hall)**



**22**  
*10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open*

**23**

**24 The Day of Pentecost** **31 The 1st Sunday after Pentecost**  
 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I)  
 9:00 Sunday School (Parish Hall)  
 10:15 Eucharist (RITE II) *9-12 Jody's Gift Shop Open*  
 11:30 Cantate  
 6:00 Young Adult Bible Study

**25 MEMORIAL DAY**  
 Church Office Closed  
 6:00 Beginner Ukulele  
 7:00 Advanced Ukulele

**26**

**27 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open**  
 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Coffee Snob)  
 6:30 - 7:30  
**SPRING CONCERT & END OF THE YEAR AWARDS** (Parish Hall)



**28 8:30-12 Library Open**  
*10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open*  
**10:00 Healing & Anointing (Chapel)**

**29 9:30 - 3:30 ECW LADIES QUIET DAY RETREAT**  
 (Parish Hall)

**30**  


## ECW NEWS

As the 2025 – 2026 ECW year draws to an end, I would like to invite you all to the **ECW End of the Year Luncheon**. This is scheduled on **Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall**.

I would also like to say thank you to the many amazing ladies who have worked so hard throughout the year to make this another successful year for ECW. Through the efforts of our ladies, ECW has supported and managed:

\* Altar Guild, \* Monthly Food Drop for the local food bank, \* Jody's Gift Shop, \* Supported financially and physically care for our beautiful grounds and Butterfly garden, \* Managed the Church Library for the good of all, \* Provided \$2500.00 in scholarships to LSSC, \* Provided comfort to grieving families through the Parish Family Bereavement receptions \* \$20,000.00 in community charitable giving. \* Financial support and upkeep of the Parish Hall \*\* A highlight of our year was to share our support for The Rev. Dr. Sebastiana Springman's ordination in helping to provide vestments which will be used throughout her ministry.

It is equally important to recognize that without the backing and support of the church membership, much of this would not be possible. As mentioned in the April Messenger, individuals such as Dr. Bob Tendall have stepped up to support our cause and fundraisers making so much of this possible. And, the church membership at large has made our fundraisers successful through their generous participation. Thank you all for your contributions of time, energy and the financial support of our fundraising events. We are forever grateful!



### 2026-2027 ECW OFFICERS

<b>President:</b>	<b>Barnelia Woodward</b>	<b>Co 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:</b>	<b>Patricia Baily</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:</b>	<b>Nancy Russell</b>	<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Dee Saylor</b>
<b>Co 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:</b>	<b>Catherine Holt</b>	<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Karen Sofield</b>



### ECW MEETINGS MAY 5TH

ECW Board Meeting ~ 10:00 a.m.  
(St. Nicholas House)

**ECW End of the Year Luncheon**  
**at 11:00 a.m.** (Parish Hall)

### ECW CHAPTER MEETINGS MAY 5TH

10:00 a.m. ~ St. Anne's (Parish Hall)  
Study: Walk In Love Episcopal Beliefs  
10:00 a.m. ~ St. Francis' (St. Nicholas House)  
Study: Walk In Love Episcopal Beliefs  
3:30 p.m. ~ St. Cecilia's (St. Nicholas House)  
Study: The Parables (Parish Hall)

### ST. MARTHA'S CHAPTER

This group focuses on Christian Fellowship and is especially popular with busy working women and mothers of younger children.

This Chapter meets monthly usually in the evening and at a restaurant. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Lara Lahey at the following: **(407) 461-7014** or **lara.lahey@yahoo.com**

ECW is open to all Women! ! If you have any questions, please contact: *Barnelia Woodward*,  
*President barneliawoodward@gmail.com*

## APRIL FOOD DROP

St. James beautiful courtyard was full of different shades of green and brilliant flowers blooming with no APRIL SHOWERS! as volunteers, Tanina and Dick Singeltary, , Terri and Van Galyon, Barbara Logan, and Rita Clements met and visited with our faithful parishioners and community members bringing in food and monetary contributions for the April Food Drop.

### TOTAL COLLECTED:

568 pounds of food

193 pounds of food from Janet Davis' Birthday Party

761.00 pounds of food

**\$610.00**

### TOTAL TO DATE:

52,342 pounds of food

**\$60,160.00**

*Be Thankful for the Past, Have Courage for the Present, Remain truthful,  
And HAVE CHRISTIAN FAITH for the Future, Author unknown*

We are looking forward to our next **FOOD DROP** on the third Wednesday of the month, **May 20th from 9:00 to 12:00**. There are also **FOOD BINS in the Parish Hall** for earlier drops. The Leesburg Food Bank continues to appreciate the increasing need for food and monetary contributions for those in our community. Remember: School Will Be "Out" with more children eating at home during the summer. Blessings to you all and Stay Safe!

*Rita Clements*



## ECW Ladies Quiet Day Retreat

May 29, 2026

St James Episcopal Church Parish Hall

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Please join us on our ECW Quiet Day where the ladies of St James are invited to join us in a quiet and healing day, exploring / discovering new ways to pray and listen to God. Our discussions will be led by The Reverend Dr Sebastiana Springman and The Reverend Beth Hall and our goal is to explore ways to deepen our private prayer experience.

Comfortable and casual will be the order of the day allowing us all to relax and enjoy a peaceful and joyful day focusing on enhancing our relationship with God.

Included in the day's activity will be a "morning tea and biscuits" including music with Birdy and Ralph, a Healing and Anointing service, prayer exploration and contemplation, a salad bar for lunch and an introduction to using the labyrinth and journaling to complement our prayers.

Seating will be limited so please register to join us in our ECW Quiet Day Retreat.

Reservation forms may be turned into Jody's Gifts and the Church Office. Our hostesses and facilitators are *Birdy Connelly, Joyce Walworth and Barnelia Woodward*.

# YOUTH SUNDAY SUNDAY, MAY 17TH

Be sure to attend or tune in via livestream for this special morning of worship. Our youth will lead the 10:15 a.m. service through music, lessons, and prayers, and we will commission new acolytes.

Sermons for both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services will be given by Noah and Clara Lahey, our wonderful graduating Seniors! Following the 2nd service, you are invited to the Parish Hall for a reception celebrating our graduates and our hard-working acolytes.



## END OF YEAR YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAM WEDNESDAY, MAY 27TH

Please join us for our end-of-year program and awards for the youth choirs. We would love to see you there!

Our God is faithful, and through music, art, and readings, we will celebrate who He has been, who He is, and who He always will be. Doors to the Parish Hall will open at 6:00 pm, the program will run from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Come be refreshed as we close out a fantastic school year! *Beth Williams*



We praise the Lord of ...

Yesterday

Today

Forever



# ST. JAMES PRAYER LIST



The St. James Prayer List is organized into two sections: **A Short-term list and a Three-Month List.** Names are initially placed on the short -term list for three weeks, after which they are moved to the three-month list. At the end of the three -month period, names will be removed unless a request is made for them to remain. Please call the church office if you would like to place someone on the Prayer List. (352) 787-1981 / [office@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:office@stjames-leesburg.org)

## Short Term ~ 3 Weeks

**Marion Belson** April 30th  
**Larry Block** April 27th  
**Alexis Dunmire** April 22nd  
**Fr. Ron Peak** April 20th

**Katie Galbreath** April 27th  
**Alana Goodman** April 20th  
**Dawn Durst** April 16th  
**Patricia Bailey** April 16th

## 3 Months

Rev Janet Gallbreath March 29th  
Cynthia Sharer March 27th  
Robin Robuck Manchester March 17th  
Karen Sofield March 10th  
Tiffany Meyer Hood March 10th  
Kelly Rolon March 9th

Michael Gray March 5th  
Kurt Cessna March 4th  
Martha Biby March 2nd  
Alex Biby March 2nd  
Deacon Art Hollows March 2nd  
Anthony Gannon March 2nd



## PASTORAL CARE UPDATE

St. James has some exciting news to share regarding Pastoral Care. The Rev'd Dr. Sebastiana Springmann will now be the "Coordinator of Pastoral Care" for St. James. After her ordination to the priesthood, her title will be "Priest Associate for Pastoral Care." This means that Rev'd Sebastiana will be the central person for coordinating all Pastoral Care issues that might arise.

Here is how it will work. **All Pastoral Care input/requests will be sent to Rev'd Sebastiana,** regardless of their source. She will then triage the information and pass the need along to the Pastoral Care Ministry that can best meet the need. For instance, if someone cannot make it to church, and would like communion brought to them, Rev'd Sebastiana will send that information to the person who coordinates Eucharistic Visitors. If there is a loss, and the person would benefit from receiving the Grief Booklets, that information will be passed along to the person who coordinates that ministry.

We are thrilled to now have a "Clearing House" for all Pastoral Care needs. This will certainly enhance the delivery of Pastoral Care services to the members of St. James.

If you have any questions about all of this, please contact:

**Rev'd Sebastiana: (352) 460-1806 / [Revsebastiana@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:Revsebastiana@stjames-leesburg.org)**



# ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Sunday Services:

8:00 a.m. (Rite 1) & 10:15 a.m. (Rite II)

## Healing & Anointing Service:

Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Church Office Phone: (352) 787-1981 / Email: [office@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:office@stjames-leesburg.org)

Please visit our website at: [www.stjames-leesburg.org](http://www.stjames-leesburg.org)



## CLERGY & STAFF

Rev'd Thomas Trees, Rector  
Cell & Email - (352)-643-1182 / [frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org)

Rev'd Art Hollows,	Deacon
Rev'd Sebastiana Springmann	Deacon
Victoria Mymudes	Parish Secretary
John Wilson	Parish Organist/Choir Director
Elizabeth Williams	Youth Ministry & Choir Director
Wylie Hill	Sexton



## VESTRY

(Senior Warden) Cherie Knowles, (Junior Warden) Bert Sofield,  
(Treasurer) Nigel Bailey

**Members:** Bill Binneveld, Claire Meade, Rita Clements,  
Tony Cobb, Susan Cyrus, Sean Lahey, Nancy Moran, Stuart Mowatt,  
& Dee Saylor.



## OUR MISSION

Saint James seeks to be a community that grows more Christ like, expressing the love of Jesus Christ in our worship, our outreach, and our commitment to discipleship.